

Dear Dr, Stokes,

I would like to see NIEHS adopt new non-animal testing methods ASAP. Too many animals have suffered and died in useless and needless toxicity testing and this must stop.

Rather than use non-animal tests for the beginning of tests, I believe NIEHS should use non-animal tests exclusively for the entire test period. This will prove to the scientific community that non-animal testing is more effective and cheaper not to mention more humane than animal testing. It is time for a government agency to lead the way in using alternative methods of lethal testing such as in vitro cell cultures, as a replacement for live animal testing.

At a minimum, ALL government agencies that currently require the acute animal-poisoning studies should IMMEDIATELY incorporate the in vitro cell culture method as a transitional means of reducing the number of animals killed and should fully support the use of this method as an eventual REPLACEMENT for lethal-dose poisoning studies. In particular, the EPA must immediately incorporate the non-animal cell culture method into its HPV chemical program, as promised in its October 1999 agreement with the animal protection community.

I urge your agency to become proactive in replacing live animal testing with in vitro cell cultures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Johnson